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Canadian Sports

Canadian Accomplishments

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Canada's Natural Resources

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Canadian Inventions

Medicine in Canada

Canada's Natural Wonders

Entertainment in Canada

Canadian Women

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**Canadian Unity
Information Office**

**Centre d'information
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Canadian Sports

Wayne Gretzky, a native of Brantford, Ontario, is the first player to score more than 200 points in a season in the National Hockey League. The "Great Gretzky" of the Edmonton Oilers scored 92 goals and 120 assists in the 1981-82 season, and again topped 200 points in the 1983-84 season. He holds at least 37 NHL scoring records.



In January 1982, Team Canada won the gold medal at the World Junior Hockey Championships.

Synchronized swimming, one of the few sports developed by women for women and adapted to the special capabilities of the female body, was a Canadian idea.

In 1960, at Squaw Valley, California, Anne Heggtveit, then of Ottawa, became Canada's first Olympic gold medallist in skiing. That same year, she won two world gold medals, thus establishing herself as the top woman skier for 1960.



Ron Turcotte, a jockey from Grand Falls, New Brunswick, won the American Triple Crown in 1973, riding Secretariat.

Hervé Filion of Angers, Quebec, is the undisputed world champion of harness racing, having won 6,290 races between 1953 and 1977.

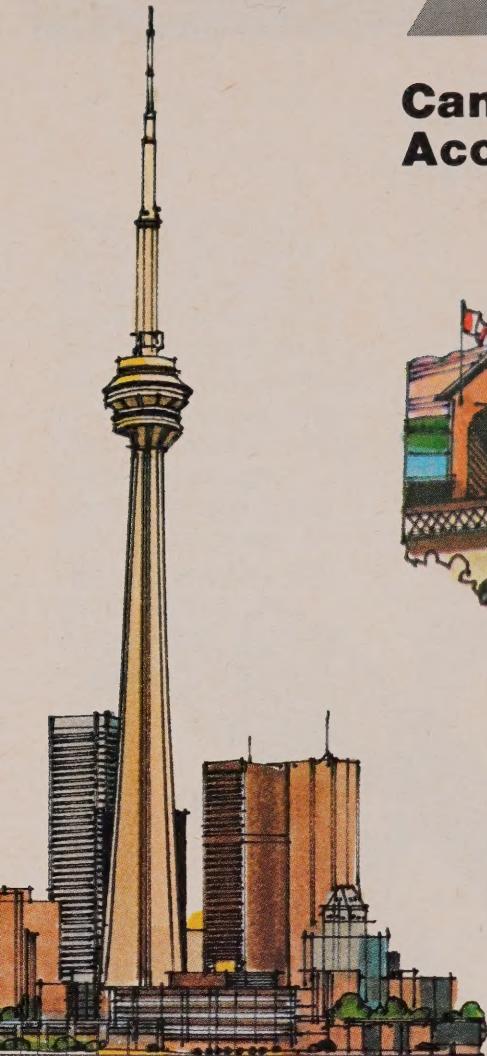


The first world figure skating champion was a Canadian, Louis Rubenstein of Montreal, who won the first unofficial world championship, held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 1890.

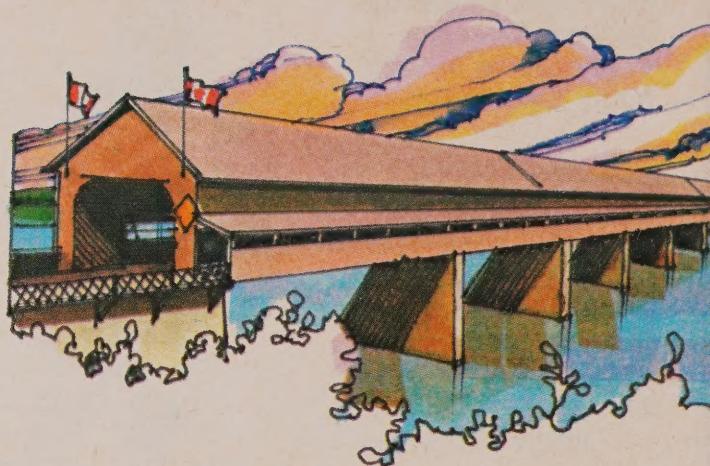


Speedskater Gaetan Boucher of St. Hubert, Quebec, won two gold medals and one bronze in the Winter Olympics of 1984 at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. In terms of winning medals, it was the best Olympic performance ever by a Canadian. Boucher followed it up a short time later by winning the world championship in Norway.

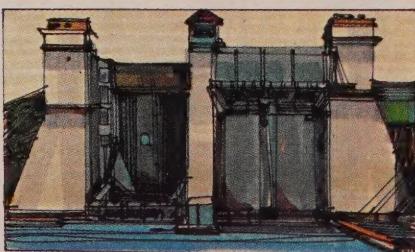
Canadian Accomplishments



The Canadian National Tower, in the heart of downtown Toronto, is the highest self-supporting structure in the world, rising 553.33 metres above ground level.



In Hartland, New Brunswick, you can still cross the world's longest covered bridge, which measures 390.8 metres and was completed in 1899.



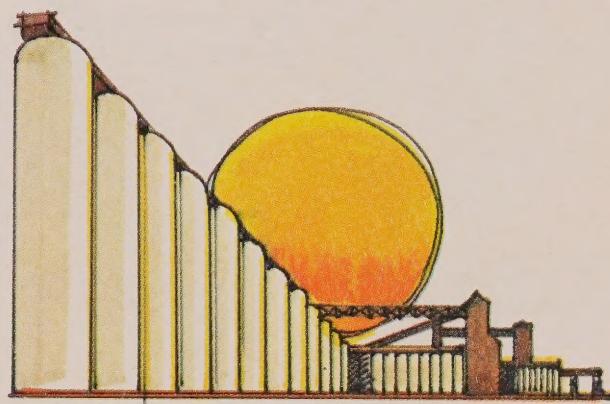
The hydraulic lift lock on the Trent Canal at Peterborough, Ontario, reaches a height of almost 20 metres, making it the highest lock of its type in the world.

The Trans-Canada Highway is the longest paved road in the world. When it was officially opened in 1962, it measured nearly 7,700 kilometres, from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia.



The Icefield Parkway in Alberta, running for 228 kilometres and reaching an altitude of more than 2,000 metres above sea level, is regarded as one of the world's great scenic mountain roads.

There are more grain elevators in Thunder Bay, Ontario, than in any other place in the world. Their total capacity is 37.4 million hectolitres.



The Daniel Johnson Dam on the Manicouagan River in Quebec is the world's largest multi-arch dam.



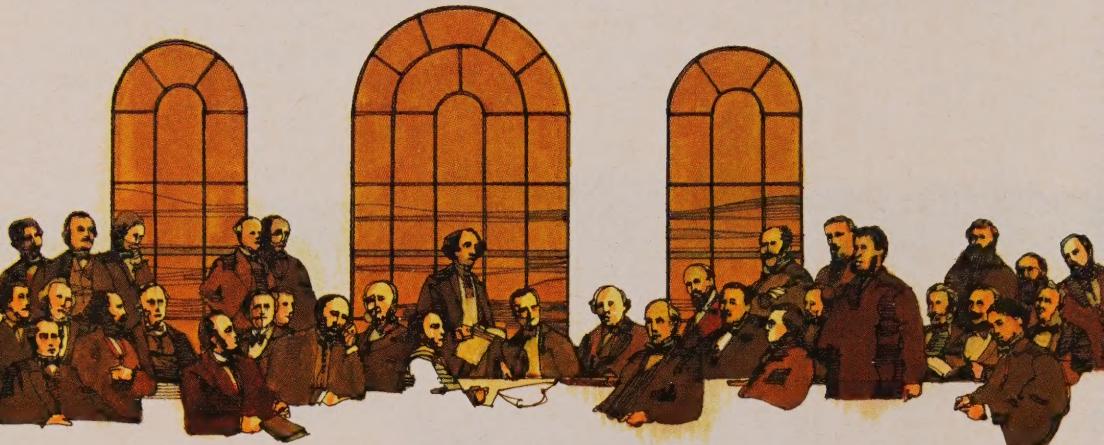
Canadian and World Federalism

Though we refer to 1867 as the year of Confederation, Canada is not and never has been a confederation. It was created as a *federation*, with powers divided between two orders of government, each with its share of direct jurisdiction over the population.

In 1867, direct taxation, now the main source of government income, was considered impossible to apply.

Canada was the third country in history to adopt a federal system.

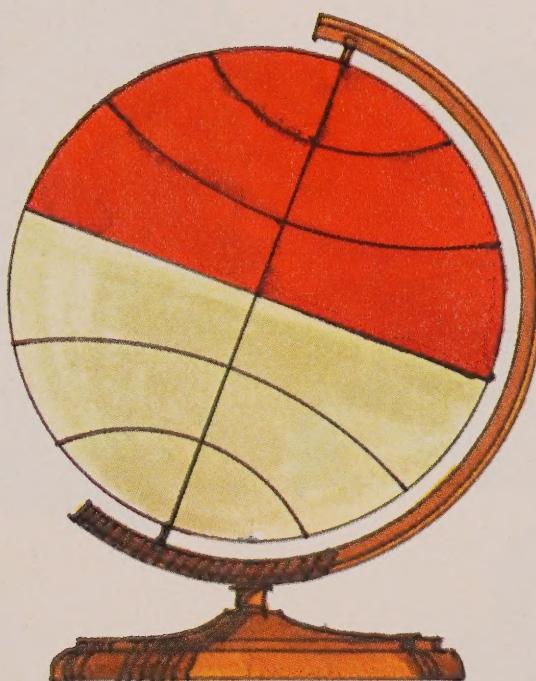
Four of the world's most stable constitutional systems are federal systems: the United States, since 1787; Switzerland, since 1848; Canada, since 1867; and Australia, since 1900.





Since the beginning of the twentieth century, 14 countries have adopted a federal system.

In 1867, Napoleon III of France wanted to see "the states of Europe united to form a single confederation."



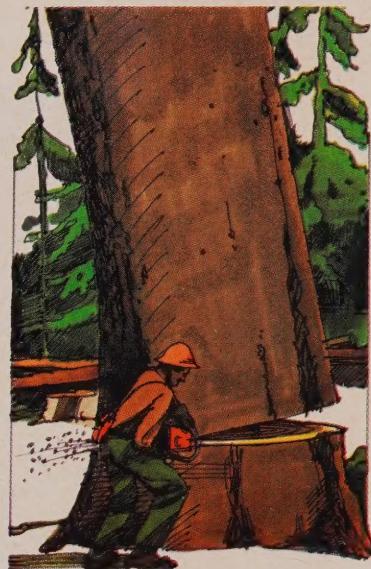
Over 50 per cent of the world's people live in a federal system.

Canada's Natural Resources

Canada is the second most powerful country in the world in terms of hydro-electricity. Among the major projects are installations at James Bay and the Manicouagan River in Quebec, on the Columbia River in British Columbia and at Churchill Falls in Labrador.



In 1979, Canada ranked first in world production of zinc, second in nickel, potash and asbestos, and third in gold and silver.



Canadian waterways are among the world's greatest in terms of hydro potential and they produced approximately 70 per cent of the country's electrical power in 1978.

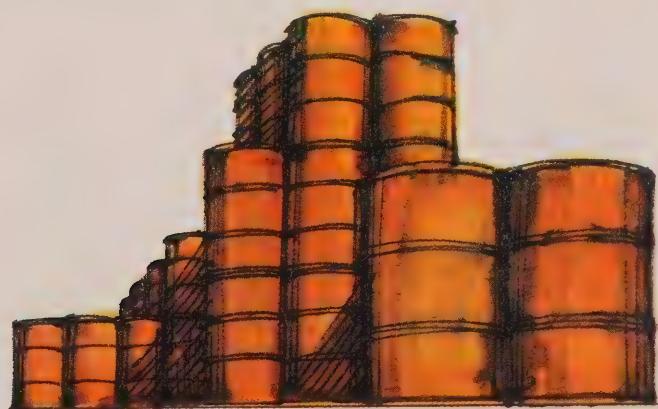
Our forests cover 4.4 million square kilometres from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and are exceeded in area only by those of the Soviet Union and Brazil.



The Province of Alberta currently produces more than 85 per cent of Canada's natural gas, which is transported by pipeline to over 1,560 localities from Vancouver to Montreal.

The Canadian fishing industry is among the most productive in the world with annual catches of approximately 1 million metric tons. In 1979, Canada was the largest exporter of fish, ahead of Japan, Norway and Denmark.

Oil reserves in the Alberta tar sands are estimated at 197 billion barrels.



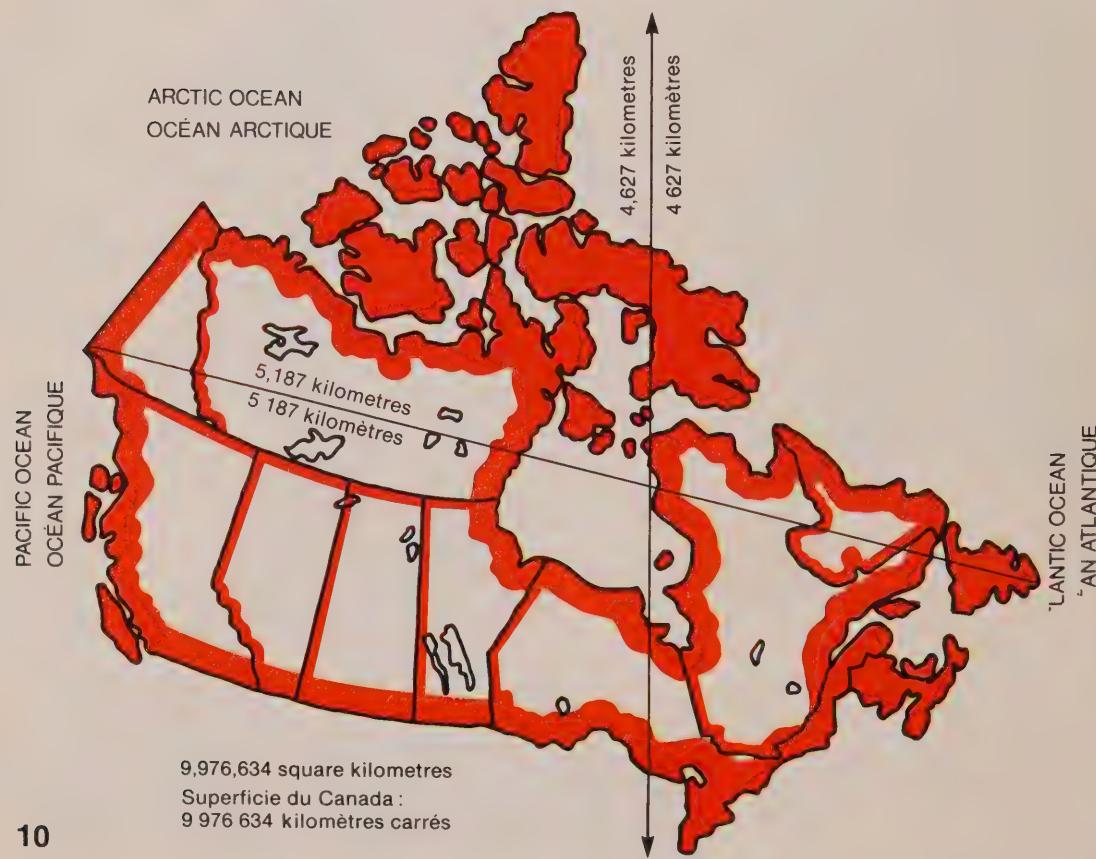
Geography of Canada

Among Canada's 10 provinces and two territories, the Northwest Territories is the largest, covering 3,379,698 square kilometres.

Canada measures 5,187 kilometres from east to west, and 4,627 kilometres from the polar ice cap to its most southerly point.

Canada's coastline of 241,402 kilometres, which includes the perimeters of 52,494 salt-water islands, is the longest of any country in the world.

Manitoulin Island in Ontario's Georgian Bay is the world's largest island surrounded by fresh water.





France could fit 18 times and Britain 40 times into Canada, the second largest country in the world.



Canada's freshwater bodies cover 755,276 square kilometres, and represent one-seventh of all the fresh water in the world.

The St. Elias Mountains in Yukon contain some of the highest mountains in Canada. The tallest of these is Mount Logan with an altitude of 5,951 metres above sea level, making it the highest point in Canada.



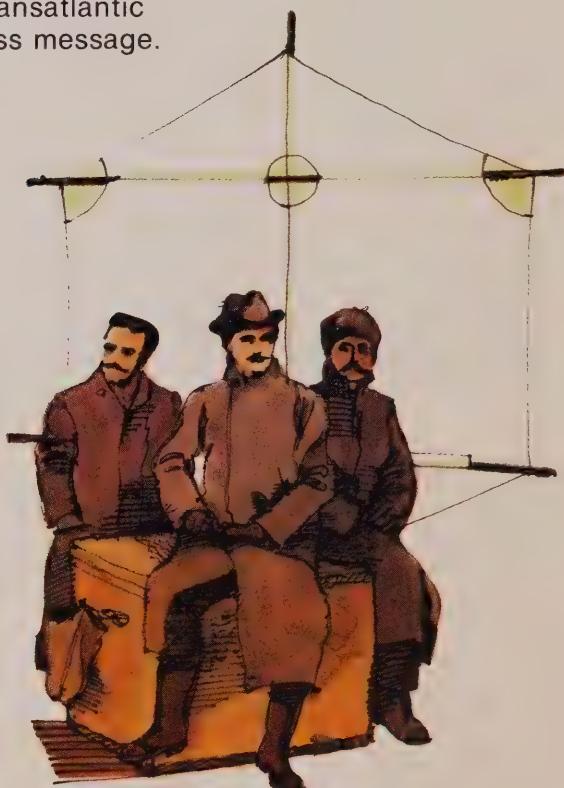
Canadian Inventions

In 1972, Roland Galarneau of Hull, Quebec, who has been almost totally blind since birth, developed a computer that translates any printed text into braille.



It was at St. John's, Newfoundland, in 1901, that Guglielmo Marconi received the first transatlantic wireless message.

Basketball was invented in 1891 by John Naismith of Almonte, Ontario.



Pablum, which rapidly became a basic food for babies around the world, was invented in 1930 by Doctors Alan Brown, T.G.H. Drake and F.F. Tisdall of Toronto.



Kerosene, which revolutionized the world petro-chemical industry, was invented in 1846 by Dr. Abraham Gesner of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

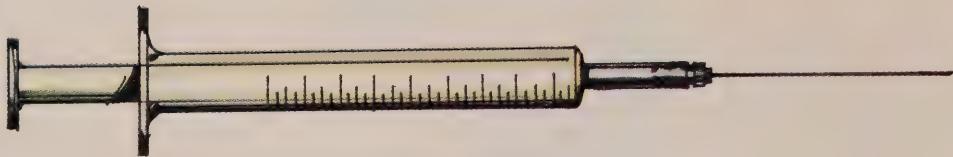


The world's first electronic organ was invented by Morse Robb of Belleville, Ontario, in 1927.



The electron microscope was invented in the late 1930s by Dr. James Hillier of Brantford, Ontario and Albert Prebus of Edmonton, Alberta.

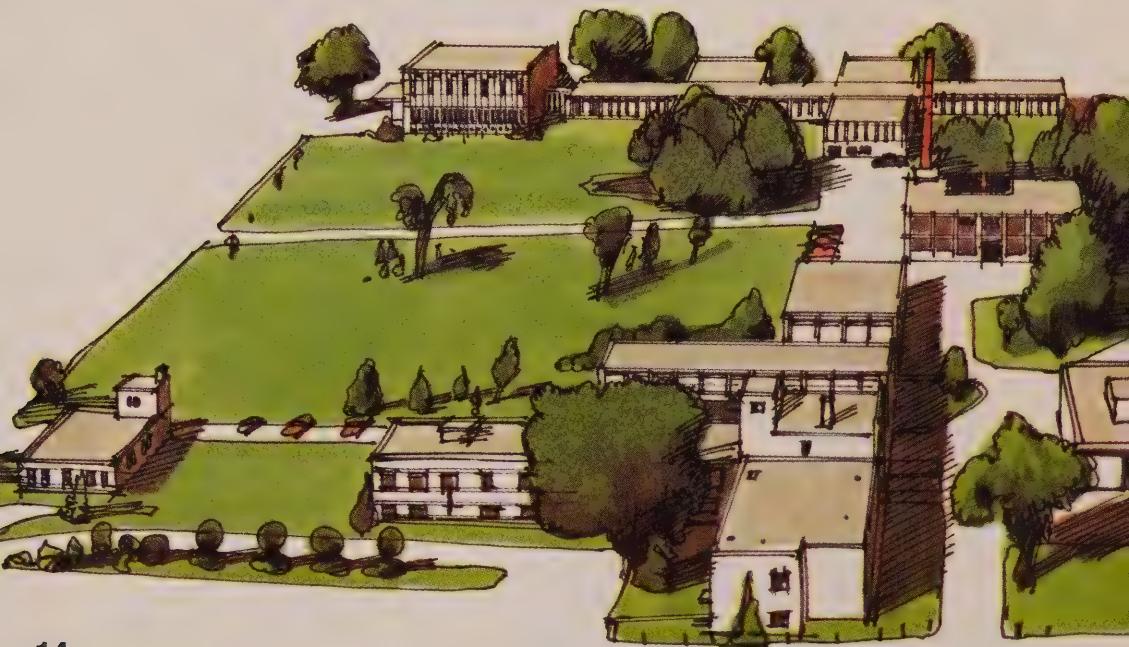
Medicine in Canada

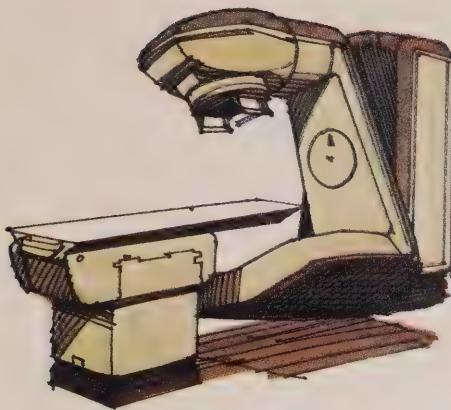


Two Ontarians, Doctors Frederick Banting and Charles Best, discovered insulin in 1921. Two years later, Dr. Banting received the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Dr. Emily Stowe was registered as a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Ontario in 1880, becoming the first Canadian woman licensed to practise medicine in Canada.

Dr. Armand Frappier, founder of the Montreal institute of microbiology that now bears his name, was awarded the medal of the Order of Canada in 1969 for research he initiated, particularly in relation to anti-tuberculosis vaccine.





In 1951, Harold Johns, a physicist then at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, played a key role in perfecting the cobalt bomb, used all over the world in the treatment of cancer.

In 1964, Dr. Gustave Gingras and his staff at the Montreal Rehabilitation Centre teamed up with researchers at the Northern Electric Company in Ottawa and subsequently perfected significant refinements in an artificial hand activated by the body's own electrical impulses.



Dr. Wilder Penfield (1891-1976), who founded the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1934, was recognized the world over as one of the greatest brain surgeons of his time.



Canada's Natural Wonders

Throughout much of Canada, when conditions are right, brilliant displays of northern lights appear in the skies. These lights are caused by particles from the sun penetrating the earth's magnetic field.



Each year, thousands of salmon come in from the sea to spawn in the Humber River in Newfoundland. Their swim up the high falls in Squires Memorial Park is an unforgettable sight.

Every autumn, in the course of their annual migration toward the southern United States, some 100,000 snow geese alight at Cap-Tourmente, near Quebec City.





A car with its motor turned off will seem to climb magically to the top of Magnetic Hill, near Moncton, New Brunswick, because of a remarkable optical illusion.

Canada possesses the largest park in the world — Wood Buffalo National Park, two-thirds of which is in Alberta and the rest in the Northwest Territories.

Glacial meltwater from the 338-square-kilometre Columbia Icefield in Jasper National Park, Alberta, finds its way into the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean and Hudson Bay.



Entertainment in Canada

Oscar Peterson of Montreal won the American Grammy award for the best solo performance by a jazz musician in 1977.



Jean Gascon of Montreal, founder of *le Théâtre du Nouveau Monde* and the National Theatre School of Canada, became the first French-speaking artistic director of the Stratford Theatre in Ontario, in 1967.

Evelyn Hart of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet won the gold medal at the International Ballet Competition held in Varna, Bulgaria, in 1980.

In 1973, Ottawa's Mario Bernardi became the first Canadian conductor to tour Europe with a classical orchestra, that of the National Arts Centre.





Anne Murray of Springhill, Nova Scotia, won a gold record in 1970 for her recording of *Snowbird*.

Jean Carignan of Lévis, Quebec, considered a true virtuoso of the violin, has been awarded, among other honours, the medal of the Order of Canada in 1974 and the 1975 prize for the musician best interpreting traditional Irish music.



In 1977, Monique Mercure of Montreal became the first Canadian to receive the Cannes Film

Festival award for best actress. It was awarded for her role in *J.A. Martin, photographe*.

Canadian Women

The 1945 publication of Gabrielle Roy's first novel, *Bonheur d'occasion* (published in English as *The Tin Flute*), was acclaimed both here and abroad. It won the Governor General's Award in Canada and the Prix Femina in France.

Canadian Clara Brett Martin, who graduated from Osgoode Hall in 1896, was the first woman lawyer anywhere in what was then the British Empire.



The first woman war correspondent in the world was Kit Coleman who, in 1898, covered the Spanish-American War in Cuba for the *Toronto Mail and Empire*.



Dr. Helen Creighton of Nova Scotia, known internationally as a collector of folklore, has gathered more than 4,000 folk songs, as well as folk tales, games, dances, instrumental music and samples of dialogue throughout the Maritimes. She has received four honorary degrees in recognition of the value of her work.

Mary Ellen Smith's election to the B.C. legislature, in 1918, made her the first female member of that body. Three years later, her appointment as minister without portfolio made her the first woman cabinet minister in Canada.

Jeanne Mance, the first nurse not belonging to a religious order to settle in New France, was also one of the co-founders of Ville-Marie, now the city of Montreal.



Canada's first woman mayor was Barbara Hanley of Webbwood, Ontario, elected in 1936.

In 1929, as a result of the work of Emily Murphy and her group of Alberta women, Canadian women were finally recognized as "persons".

In 1921 Agnes Macphail, a native of Grey County, Ontario, became the first woman to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons.

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